

\de\interests
Jan 29, 1994

--Holocaust studies; genocide(s); role of participants, bystanders (less, victims), facilitators;

--Secrecy + Ethics

--Lying

--Cover; covert actions; closets

--Self-deception, denial, selective perception

--Coercion

--Strategic bombing

--Nuclear weapons, planning, preparations, motives and process of nuclear arms race.

--First-use threats, role, motives, impact; past closeness to nuclear war; nuclear crises.

--Cuba II

--The construction of instability; possibilities of "inadvertent war", preemption, false alarms, unauthorized actions, "dead hand" doomsday machines.

--Terrorism, massacre motives, willingness to risk or perform, order...

--Just War

--Deterrence, and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

--Necessity defense (by "my side" and "by them")

--Milgram Experiments, and interpretation:
Obedience; contract; promise; conformity; authority

--Disobedience, dissent, rebellion, conscientious behavior;

--Coming out, "leaking", truth-telling

--Civil disobedience, militant non-violence, satyagraha

--Subjective probability, uncertainty, decision-making under uncertainty: Kahneman-Tversky et al, experiments.

--Ambiguity

- Reckless decision-making, gambling with catastrophe
- Possibilities and impact of Candor, openness.
- Cooperative security, non-offensive defense.
- Redirection of tax money away from military spending, conversion, changed priorities, demilitarisation of economies of world (and end of arms sales).
- Blame, blaming, avoiding blame; perceived responsibility, culpability.
- Revealed preference/efforts to conceal preference (beliefs, values, motives, aims); (see cover); effects of anticipated audience on decision-making (vs. Robinson Crusoe decision-making).
- Regret, reproach; minimizing, maximaxing, considering.
- JFK and Vietnam;
- LBJ and Vietnam: the 1964-65 conspiracy, and the escalation decision of 1965.
- RMN's aims and strategy for VN; the 1969-75 conspiracy; the role of Watergate.
- Watergate and me.
- The origins of my own preoccupations and character. The Piano and The Accident.

Over the last two decades, I have read much, reflected, written notes; to some extent lectured on these subjects. But I have not done what I proposed to do in my MacArthur Reading and Research grant: written out notes extensively, published analyses.

(Consider the effects of Patricia's demanding--immediately after I had sent in my MacArthur proposal--that I turn to consideration of the "financial problem". This derailed my momentum for writing; it led to what she regarded (self-servingly) as my role in the "catastrophe" at the hands of her brother; and it opened up into a discussion of her attitudes over the previous 16 years toward me; which was not only preoccupying and distracting, but very depressing. Should I discuss this with Pat? Anyway, that was 7-8 years ago; not much bearing on last three years, which have been fairly well used).

Subsequently, after MBG had raised money for 2-3 years to work as freely as on MacArthur...I just didn't do it. Why? Why does the image of Ivan Karamazov's "brain fever" during his brother's

trial strike me as such a strong analogy?

My failure to expound certain of these subjects in print still strikes me as a moral failure: to use the description that shocked MBG. But it's not too late; the subjects are not even obsolete, given the prospects of proliferation (they seemed to be for a while; if Gorbachev had stayed powerful...). E.g., if I needed income on which to write these out freely, there is the Institute of Peace; or the MacArthur Foundation. Or I could write my memoirs, and use the proceeds for several years of writing on these!

(instead of the reverse sequence)